

HEALTH SCARE

Stigma still surrounds discussion of sexually transmitted diseases

Tim Schrag
editor-in-chief

Editor's note: The names Natalie Mason and Rusty Hendrix are pseudonyms for students at K-State. They were given anonymity upon request by the writer and editors. All other names in the story are factual. This story was produced as a class assignment for the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Natalie Mason has experienced sexually transmitted disease scares from several perspectives, as a trusting girlfriend in a nine-month relationship in which she and her boyfriend did not feel the need to use protection during sex, as a rape victim and as a mother whose son also had an STD scare.

In each instance, including her son's, the tests came back negative, but Mason, a graduate student at K-State, said they all triggered different responses from her. Having been sexually active for more than 20 years, she said she considers herself lucky to have been STD-free for this long.

"It's one more thing that you don't want to have to deal with and one more appointment you don't want to have to go to," Mason said. "Even though it is pretty common, it is sort of humiliating in a way. It was more of a pain in the ass and took up my time."

Mason said her boyfriend received a phone call from his ex-girlfriend warning him to get tested. When Mason found out she said she was angry, but more than anything she felt inconvenienced.

After being raped at a college party at K-State, she said she had all kinds of emotions, and the next day she went to a local health department to get tested for several STDs including HIV.

"If anything I knew when I was getting tested there, would be results," she said. "There was something concrete. After you're raped there's something that spins out of control and the one thing I could control is I can go get a test and I can find out these things and I can do these concrete things that make me better."

When her son told her he may have contracted a STD, she said she had a wakeup call that her child was growing up.

Mason said people need to move past common connotations associated with STDs and the taboo that comes with talking about them.

"The stigma and the hang-up is about sex, not about the disease," she said.



Photo illustration by Lauren Gocken

Mason said she has no problem talking about STDs, but many of her friends do. One who had AIDS even committed suicide as a result of depression surrounding their illness.

By the numbers

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's current strategic prevention plan, nearly 19 million new STD infections occur each year in the US. Of that 19 million, the CDC estimates half of these infections occur among young Americans from ages 15-24.

The Kansas STD Case Rate Report prepared by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, looked at the rates of chlamydia, gonorrhea and early syphilis rates from 2000-2010. Kansas has seen an increase in cases of chlamydia and syphilis, while the number of gonorrhea cases remained mostly steady.

In 2000, nearly 1,200 cases of chlamydia were documented in Kansans ages 15-19 according to

the report. In 2009, that number peaked at nearly 1,700 cases. Kansans ages 20-24 had the highest number of cases in the report. In 2000, nearly 1,250 were reported; by 2009 that number rose to more than 2,000 cases reported.

Additionally in the KDHE report, there were no cases of early syphilis reported for Kansans ages 15-19 in 2000, but by 2010 there were seven cases. In Kansans ages 20-24, there were three cases reported in 2000. Ten cases were reported in 20-24 year-olds in 2009.

According to a 2010 case report from the KDHE, Riley County had the fourth most reported cases of chlamydia in the state with 335 cases. Sedgwick County had the most with 2,629 cases reported. Sedwick is the state's second most populated county. Riley County also had the fourth most reported cases of gonorrhea in the state with 51 cases. Sedgwick County had the most with 636 cases reported. Riley County reported two cases of early syphilis, tying for sixth in the state with Geary and Shawnee Counties. However,

there were only 18 counties with reported cases of early syphilis. Sedgwick had the most with 29 cases reported.

A doctor's touch

Dr. Wendy Blank, director of the K-State Women's Health Clinic at Lafene Health Center, said patients diagnosed with herpes or HPV are more likely to respond emotionally. She said while STDs are probably taboo in American culture, as a gynecologist they are a part of her job, so her diagnosing students is part of the daily routine.

"I tell them with empathy and compassion," she said. Blank also said she provides diagnosed patients with written information from the CDC.

John Fajen, a clinical psychologist in Manhattan, said he treats patients for all types of trauma. When clients come in with a problem involving an STD, Fajen said, the disease is rarely the main problem they are mulling over.

"It's almost always secondary

to infidelity," Fajen said. "And so when you're talking about the emotional results, it's a multiple problem because infidelity hurts, at least for a while, with most people, but depending on which STD it is, it could last a lifetime."

Fajen said he has helped nearly a half-dozen clients who have contracted STDs.

"When they come in, they are more angry than anything else," he said. "If it's one that's going to last a lifetime, then sometimes there's sadness, but more often than that just anger, because it was a betrayal. I don't think I've ever had a client who said, 'Well, I failed to practice safe sex and now I've gotten myself infected.'"

Fajen said he does not believe that STDs are taboo for discussion.

"No, not in this office, because almost everything gets brought up," he said. "Sooner or later people, once they have a sense of rapport and trust, they will talk

SEX | pg. 7

Rising tuition costs drive increasing number of students into debt

Sarah Rajewski
senior staff writer

Editor's note: This is part two of a three-part series on the rising cost of tuition and its effect on students. This story was produced as a class assignment for the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Utilities, rent, groceries, pet food, project supplies — the list of monthly costs goes on for Lili Torres, who is a third-year architecture student.

Though Torres has taken out loans to pay for tuition for three years, paying for living expenses adds up, even with money from her job.

"Right when I get out of school, there's no opportunity for me once again to try to figure things out — try to find a job, try to find locations,"

she said. "It's probably like I should find a really good job right away and just do it so I can start paying that off."

For Torres and other college students today, financial pressures from the recession and increased tuition costs can cause strain, affecting decisions they make both now and in the future.

Students who graduate owing money could find more financial struggles when starting life after college, said Bill Blankenau, K-State department head of economics.

"Students who graduate with a lot of debt, it could delay things like a first home purchase," he said. "It may force them to make decisions more quickly about what job to take and that sort of thing or to finance in order to pay off that debt."

K-State students ranked

behind those from the University of Kansas and Emporia State University in the debts that graduates had in 2009 — the most recent year with data — according to the Project on Student Debt, which is an initiative for the Institute for College Access and Success.

According to Larry Moeder, director of student financial assistance and admissions, the average K-State student graduates with about \$19,500 in debt — a number that has risen during the past 10 years. As university costs have grown, Moeder said student loans have increased dramatically because people now borrow up to the maximum limits that their loans allow.

However, Blankenau said, this amount of borrowed money is still more like a "nice car amount of money," as opposed to something larger like

a mortgage on a house.

The pressure debt creates can start long before students receive their diplomas,

"The number of students leaving college with greater debt will only increase."

Larry Moeder
Director of student financial assistance and admissions

though. It can start from the day they declare their majors during freshman year.

For Torres, who took a year off from her program in architecture while she tried classes

in other academic programs, the decision to try something new cost her.

"I wouldn't take it back for anything, because it was really fun and I did learn a lot about myself, but it was really expensive," she said. "Taking that year off, technically, I spent thousands of dollars just figuring it out."

Despite costs of tuition and some students' struggles to find jobs, Blankenau cautioned students about going overboard with trying to save money. Though students should avoid unnecessary purchases, he said attending a university is still a good investment, especially for students who take advantage of all opportunities — both in class and out — to prepare themselves for their futures.

"When the option is to avoid debt by avoiding col-

lege, that's not really sound thinking," Blankenau said.

Students can seek scholarships and financial aid resources from K-State's Office of Student Financial Assistance, but as costs continue to rise and financial aid dollars fail to keep up, Moeder said the number of students leaving college with greater debt will only increase — creating a whole generation of students not starting life at the same level of financial security as earlier generations.

"They're going to be dealing with college debt first and then moving on to establishing themselves in life," Moeder said. "That's what we're going to see."

Will tuition only continue to increase? Read Wednesday's Collegian to see what K-State is planning for the future.

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23 With 10-Down, important woman

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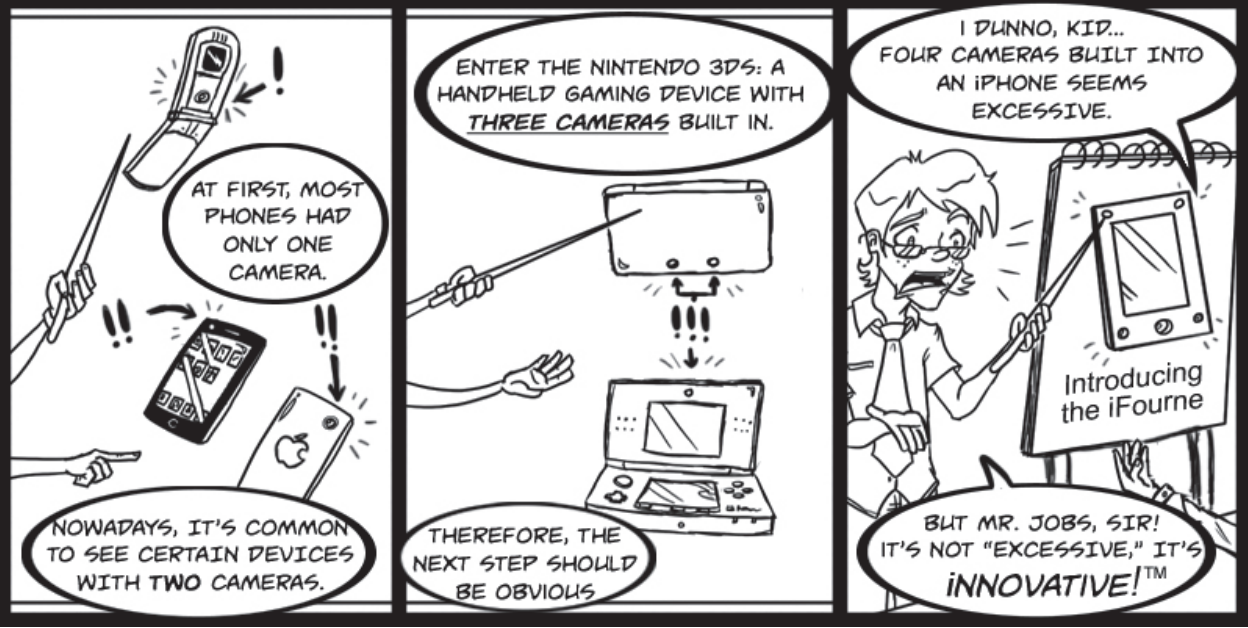
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Yesterday's answer 8-23

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For The Win | By Parker Wilhelm



kansas state collegian

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The Collegian welcomes your letters to the editor. They can be submitted by e-mail to letters@spub.ksu.edu, or in person to Kedzie 116. Include your full name, year in school and major. Letters should be limited to 350 words. All submitted letters may be edited for length and clarity.

CORRECTIONS

If you see something that should be corrected or clarified, please call our editor-in-chief, Tim Schrag, at 785-532-6556, or e-mail him at news@spub.ksu.edu.

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CORRECTION

There was an error in the caption of the Miami article regarding the Brown brothers in yesterday's Collegian. Both Arthur and Bryce Brown were recruited by Miami, but only Arthur joined the Miami program, and Bryce went to Tennessee. The Collegian regrets this error.

KenKen | Medium

Use numbers 1-4 in each row and column without repeating. The numbers in each outlined area must combine to produce the target number in each area using the mathematical operation indicated.

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Sketch-in-time



While some students on their first day are reading syllabuses, **Jordan Klima**, freshman in environmental design studies, crouches to get a better look at a feature of the Seaton Hall Pierce Commons for a sketch on Monday. Sketching the space is one of the first assignments many environmental design studies students complete.

Jonathon Knight | Collegian

THE BLOTTER ARREST REPORTS

SUNDAY

Brent Keith Kolterman, of the 1400 block of Flint Hills Place, was booked for failure to appear. Bond was set at \$1,500.

Desie Martez Chatfield, of Manhattan, was booked for aggravated burglary and criminal damage to property. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Natalie Rae Nicole Chatfield, of Belleville, Kan., was booked for drug possession of any substance and use or possession of paraphernalia to introduce into the human body. Bond was set at \$1,500.

Joshua Lee Shaw, of Beatrice, Neb., was booked for driving under the influence. Bond was set at \$500.

- compiled by Sarah Rajewski

Ecological genomics links future with past

Stephanie Jacques
k-state communications and marketing

A special twist on the nature versus nurture debate is grabbing the attention of students seeking a graduate degree in biology. K-State's Division of Biology's Ecological Genomics Institute studies the genetic mechanisms responsible for organisms' adaptive responses to their environment, providing a diverse area of study that appeals to a wide variety of students.

"I found the eco gen program very interesting," said Corin White, a first-year doctoral student in biology from Santa Clara, Calif. "When I was looking at graduate schools, I was looking for an interdisciplinary program that addressed topics in ecology, behavior, genetics and evolution, and eco gen combines those interests."

White is studying genes involved in immune response to the nosocomial bacteria, *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* in the nematode, *Caenorhabditis elegans*, under the direction of her mentor, Michael Herman, professor of biol-

ogy. Before coming to K-State, White had limited experience with genetics and chose the ecological genomics program because of its diverse faculty expertise.

"The faculty is knowledgeable in various areas," White said. "If I have a question about any technique, someone here will find or have the answer."

Lindsey Fallis, a doctoral student in biology from Harper, also chose K-State for its ecological genomics program.

"We all see evidence for evolution outside," Fallis said. "We see phenotypes changing and how everything fits perfectly into an ecosystem. But I find it really interesting when you can get to the molecular level and you can actually trace what has happened. You are essentially figuring out what happened in the past through genes and DNA."

Fallis is studying the genes in *Drosophila melanogaster*, a species of fruit fly, that are responsible for thermal tolerance and for the phenotypic differences within and among populations collected from colder versus warmer cli-

mates. She is working with Ted Morgan, assistant professor of biology.

"We are seeing changes in the DNA that are potentially affecting the phenotype, but we haven't directly tested that yet," Fallis said.

The Ecological Genomics Institute fosters interactions between biologists and other scientists in pathology, entomology, agronomy, and computer and information sciences.

The interdisciplinary aspect of the ecological genomics program gave Fallis the opportunity to converse with faculty outside of the Division of Biology, which gave her a new outlook on her research, making her analysis of her approach more effective.

"It's important as a scientist to be able to critique all kinds of biology and not just your specific little corner," Fallis said. "Sometimes things get really specific but you need to remember how it all ties together. It is also important to be open to different viewpoints from outside the department. Different perspectives might bring a new light to your research."

"Ecological genomics is unique because it's an interdisciplinary way of doing biology," said Michael Herman, co-founder of the Ecological Genomics Institute. "Our research spans levels of biology, from molecules and genes up through higher levels of organization, and we hope up to the ecosystem level."

Both White and Fallis had research presentations at the ninth annual Ecological Genomics Research Forum that featured the research of 13 other students and postdoctoral fellows in the Ecological Genomics Institute. White also presented her research at the 18th International C. elegans Meeting sponsored by the Genetics Society of America Conferences in Los Angeles, where she won second place for her poster presentation. Both students would like to ultimately find employment in the academic research field.

"The big overarching question is, How do organisms adapt in nature? That's a question that has been asked in biology for a hundreds of years, and now we're addressing it at the molecular level," Fallis said.

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¿COMPRENDE?

Better sexual education needed in US for students of all ages



Tim Schrag

Americans are fickle people when it comes to the subject of sexual intercourse.

We love to hear about who is sleeping with whom and who is not getting any. Sex comes up in popular culture every day on TV, in movies and in songs, but it is taboo in our culture to bring up topics like sexually transmitted diseases. We have built a society that treats sex like a glamorous secret act but refuses to acknowledge its consequences.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's current strategic prevention plan, nearly 19 million new STD infections occur each year in America alone. Of that 19 million, the CDC estimates half of these infections occur among younger Americans from ages 15 to 24.

The Census Bureau estimates that there are more than 311 million people in the U.S., so if 16 percent of a nation's population is being infected each year it's time to start removing the taboo and fix the problem.

Nancy Muturi, associate professor of public relations, suggests that a general lack of education and interest may feed the taboo that surrounds STDs.

"Often people talk about it after the fact, which is sometimes too late, especially for women who might not know they are infected until months later," Muturi said. "STDs are not considered



sexy enough to have readers or viewers."

Muturi is an expert in risk communication involving HIV and AIDS. She has worked with men and women in Africa researching how information about HIV/AIDS infection risks are spread among people 65 and older. Muturi said she is researching how younger adults make the decision to use a condom or not when they engage in sex, specifically if alcohol is involved.

By not talking about this problem, we are only prolonging the number of people who might suffer from the diseases. We are keeping people from seeking out knowledge or help because of fear of embarrassment.

The National Center for Health Statistics reported in a 2010 study that more than 90 percent of teenagers receive formal sex education before the age of 18. If that's the case, why are STD rates

so high? Again, signs point to a lack of proper education.

"K-State students are oftentimes woefully lacking in basic knowledge about sex and their sexuality, but so are the majority of college students in this country," said Kelly Welch, assistant

professor of family studies and human services. "Today's young adults are in desperate need of reality sex education."

Welch said most college students lack understanding of their own sexual development, in addition to misunderstanding and misinfor-

mation about the human body and how it functions sexually as well as inadequate knowledge about sexually transmitted infections and how to protect themselves. She currently teaches human development at K-State and has written several books on human sexuality.

Welch said she recommends sexual education classes begin in kindergarten and to do so, our culture must move beyond having sex and onto having healthy relationships

"Sex is not just about body parts and penis in vagina equals sexual intercourse," Welch said. "Why can't we begin in kindergarten to teach children about respect? About communication? About caring? About empathy? About understanding? All of these relationship characteristics are foundational to a healthy sex life. Yet because so many people, one, teach that sex is nothing more than penis/vagina, and two, assume that ALL

aspects of sex involve eroticism or are dirty/naughty, we miss out on educating our young children."

The current primary focus of sex education for many schools in the U.S. is abstinence-only education, which involves promoting abstinence and uses STDs and HIV as reasons to abstain from sex. Unlike abstinence-only education, comprehensive sexual education offers information about condom and contraceptive use, as well as holds discussions about abortion, STDs and HIV.

In a 2002 study done by the AIDS Research Institute at the University of California, San Francisco researchers advocated for the teaching of comprehensive sexual education on the grounds that it better addresses the risk of adolescents' likelihood to participate in sexual acts.

"Like it or not, sexual activity is a reality for teens in America, and it is hard to imagine a school-based intervention, which will magically undo the media pressures and natural hormonal urges that young people experience," the researchers wrote. "Facing up to this reality means implementing responsible programming that truly meets the test of science and the real world needs of the young."

In short, if we are going to make any progress and move past this cultural taboo, we need to start talking about sex, its consequences and everything in between. If we do not, future generations will continue to look for information about sex and probably be misinformed.

Tim Schrag is a senior in journalism and digital media. Please send comments to opinion@spub.ksu.edu.

Intelligent telephones lousy substitute for human interaction



Laura Thacker

This is the age of the Internet, and we are all immersed in it. You really can't go anywhere without seeing someone staring at a screen, completely ignoring their surroundings, more interested in digital interaction than real, human interaction.

While the technology that is constantly at our fingertips seems convenient, and makes us feel "connected," what it is really doing is creating a new type of dependency and disconnect.

According to the June 6, 2010, New York Times article "An Ugly Toll of Technology: Impatience and Forgetfulness" by Tara Parker-Pope, many of us are finding it difficult to deal with everyday life after experiencing the instant gratification of technology for so long.

"Some experts believe excessive use of the Internet, cell-phones and other technologies can cause us to become more impatient, impulsive, forgetful and even more narcissistic," Parker-Pope reported.

Many college students reading this will probably think, "Well, that's OTHER people, not me," before checking their smartphone to see if anything has changed in the last five minutes.

Just let that sink in. How often do you sneak your phone out of your bag to check it in

class, even if that class only lasts 50 minutes? How often do you sit in the back of a lecture hall and see laptops everywhere open with Facebook, games or something else that obviously does not pertain to the class — if you look up from your own computer, that is.

It seems we can't sit and devote our attention for even an hour to information we are paying hundreds of dollars to learn. Sure, people have always zoned out in class, but it is one thing to draw in the margins or daydream about the weekend for a minute, and another to insist on constant stimulation by an intelligent telephone.

As far as narcissism goes, just think for a second about social networking sites like Twitter and Facebook. Status updates and tweets are a cry for validation, and it works. Every time someone "likes" a cleverly worded status, we all feel a little bit better about ourselves for a second, and by the time 10 people have "liked" it, our egos might get a little bit inflated.

That, my friends, is narcissism in action, and it is hard to deny that this exists. This is not the feeling of self-worth you get when you do well on a test or run a few miles, this is the feeling that you have accomplished something when, really, you just talked about yourself. But when someone "likes" that status, we are notified instantly, and that is how we like it.

While Americans have always been a society that loves instant gratification, we are getting more and more selfish, uncaring and immersed in the digital world with each new technology that is introduced. I

am not innocent of this — I can submit this story without ever setting foot into the newsroom or interacting face-to-face with anyone. You might argue that with technology you are not disconnected, but only connected to those you truly want to be connected to, but is that the case?

Parker-Pope cites a study done by the University of Maryland, in which researchers asked students to go without technology for one day. One day doesn't sound too bad does it? One participant told researchers afterward, "Although I go to school with thousands of students, the fact that I was unable to communicate with anyone via technology was almost unbearable." It seems that all these guises of connectivity are only making us more disconnected from the world. I have hundreds of Facebook friends, some that I don't feel I even know well enough to speak to in public. I know for a fact that I am not the only one in this situation.

We, as a generation, need to address this. We need to re-learn how to interact with others, how to go out of our way to say "hi," instead of just clicking on a link. We need to re-experience the joy of running into an old friend, rather than just feeling like you're "all caught up" because of Facebook and email. We need to really live our lives, instead of hiding behind a screen and just existing.

Laura Thacker is a senior in English literature and women's studies. Please send comments to opinion@spub.ksu.edu.

TO THE POINT

Intramural sports unite students

To the point is an editorial selected and debated by the editorial board and written after a majority opinion is formed. This is the Collegian's official opinion.

School has started, and so have all of the extracurricular activities on campus. Intramural sports stand out from the long list of activities K-State provides.

The reason intramural activities are so popular is how they are organized and what types of sports are offered.

Intramural sports range from extremely competitive sports like flag football, soccer and basketball to less competitive sports like four-wall handball, billiards and horseshoes.

These activities provide students with the chance to socialize, get active and stay involved. Remember that intramural sports are not just for sororities and fraternities.

Students are not the only ones who can participate in intramurals. Recreational services also encourages current and retired faculty and staff to participate. With their

own league, staff and faculty are given the same chances to participate outside of the classroom.

Sports that are offered for faculty members include golf at Rolling Meadows, Colbert Hills and Stag Hill.

Gathering a group of classmates, dorm friends or work buddies together is a great way to break the ice at the beginning of the year.

For student groups who would like to stay active and try many different sports, we recommend a yearly pass. Recreational services yearly pass will cover one team for meet or team sports and four participants in individual sports.

Taking advantage of this pass will allow participants to try out many team sports as well as meet other students.

If you aren't one for team sports, there is always table tennis singles, bowling and the individual events at the swim meet.

There should be more emphasis placed on intramural involvement at the beginning of the year. Allowing students

the opportunity a break from the monotony of class and homework is beneficial.

Having the option of playing intramurals is great for students but recreational services also provides training in officiating. This is a great way to get outside, take a break from studying and get paid.

Officials have flexible working hours and hands-on comprehensive training courses. Along with the knowledge student officials acquire, there is also a point system in place for rewarding hard workers.

One issue with signing up for intramural sports is the accessibility of sign-ups. Currently participants have to go all the way to the recreation center to sign up. Making sign-up sheets available at the K-State Student Union and the dorms would provide regular access to students who want to participate.

Intramural sports should not be missed. Finding a sport that is enjoyable and fun is easy to do. Besides getting outside for a while, intramurals are a great way to meet new people and stay active.

Like Football?



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K-STATE SPORTS BLOG

For info that doesn't make the sports page.

kstatecollegian.com/blogs

Researcher targets ‘bull’s-eye’ safer lung cancer treatment

Jennifer Tidball
k-state communication and marketing

A K-State professor is trying to create a patient-friendly treatment to help the more than 220,000 people who are diagnosed with lung cancer each year.

Masaaki Tamura, associate professor of anatomy and physiology, and his research team are working on several projects that use nanoparticles to treat and directly target the “bull’s-eye”: cancer cells.

It’s estimated that nearly 156,940 people will die from lung-related cancer this year, according to the American Cancer Society.

Lung cancer-related deaths are higher than the next three common cancer-related deaths combined: colon, breast and pancreatic cancers.

Given lung cancer’s high mortality rate, Tamura has focused his research on peptide nanoparticle-based gene therapy, which is the process of treating diseases by introducing therapeutic genes.

His research team is collaborating with University of Kansas researchers to develop a way to treat cancer other than current chemotherapy practices.

“We want to generate a safe patient-friendly therapy,” Tamura said.

Cancer develops from our own bodies, Tamura said, which makes it very difficult for traditional chemotherapy to distinguish cancer cells from healthy cells.

As a result, chemotherapy often kills both cancer cells and healthy cells, which is why patients often experience whole body reactions to treatment, such as hair loss, diarrhea and vomiting. If the chemotherapy treatment damages intestines, it often has fatal consequences for patients.

Tamura has found the potential for safer therapy in cationic peptide nanoparticles. This small peptide helps transfer an important gene

called angiotensin II type 2 receptor, which helps maintain cardiovascular tissue.

By attaching this receptor gene to peptide nanoparticles, Tamura hopes to create a form of treatment that can directly target cancer cells without damaging healthy cells.

“The peptide itself is a very safe material and it has no harmful effects,” said Tamura, who is one of the first researchers to use the peptide for cancer treatment. “The gene is actually already expressed in our body — everybody has this gene.”

Here is how the cancer treatment works: The receptor gene containing the nanoparticles spreads to only

“The gene is actually already expressed in our body — everybody has this gene. ... This is very exciting because our own immune system can prevent cancer growth.”

Masaaki Tamura
associate professor of anatomy and physiology

cancer tissue since the blood vessels in cancer tissues are flimsy.

The nanoparticles help the receptor gene kill the cancer cells.

The immune system is then stimulated to prevent the cancer from growing back.

“This is very exciting because our own immune system can prevent cancer growth,” Tamura said.

While the receptor gene works well for tumors that are easier to reach in the body, cancers that are deep within the body, such as gastric or pancreatic cancers, are more difficult to treat.

Sometimes the gene needs help targeting and reaching the cancerous cells. That’s where the peptide comes in.

It can guide the receptor gene directly to the cancer cells so treatment can begin.

Working with lungs also provides a special advantage. If the researchers can develop some sort of spray that contains the peptide, it can help the peptide go straight into the lungs.

It’s noninvasive to go through the lungs and makes it easier for the peptide to enter the circulatory system and travel to other cancerous tissue.

The cationic peptide was developed by a KU research team led by Cory Berkland, an associate professor of pharmaceutical chemistry.

After developing the peptide, they turned to Tamura and his team for help evaluating, testing and developing the peptide nanoparticle therapy. The two schools have been working together on the project for three years.

Researchers hope to develop their targeted peptide procedure into a treatment that humans can use.

“It has really been nice for the two schools to work together on this project because Kansas is such a hotbed for the biomedical industry right now,” Tamura said.

Tamura is also involved in K-State research of the cancer therapeutic possibilities of umbilical cord matrix stem cells. He is on a team of university researchers who have received a patent addressing procedures used to gather stem cells from umbilical cords -- a less controversial source of stem cells that are effective at treating cancer.

These stem cells do not generate any additional tumors and can travel deep inside the inflammatory tissue where cancer is located.

The research team has been supported by a \$500,000 grant from the Kansas Bioscience Authority to help develop the stem cells as a therapeutic agent. Other K-State researchers involved in the project include Mark Weiss and Deryl Troyer, both professors of anatomy and physiology.

Daily briefs

LIBYAN REBELS TAKE OVER CITY OF TRIPOLI

Libyan rebels have taken over a majority of the city of Tripoli. With one of Moammar Gadhafi’s three sons still in rebel custody, the next step is finding and ousting Gadhafi from power.
—cnn.com/2011/WORLD/africa/08/22/libya.war/index.html?hpt=hp_c1

MEDIA MOGUL’S HOUSE DESTROYED

Richard Branson’s private-island home burned after it was struck by lightning on Monday.
—cnn.com/2011/SHOWBIZ/celebrity.news.gossip/08/22/branson.house.fire/index.html?hpt=hp_t2

STRAUSS-KAHN PROSECUTORS TO DROP CHARGES

Prosecutors might drop charges related to former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn’s alleged sexual assault on a hotel worker.
—cnn.com/2011/CRIME/08/22/new.york.dsk.case/index.html?hpt=hp_t1

A TOWN WITH A DARK SIDE

Donna Fairchild is one of many players in the secret world of Mesquite, Nevada.
—cnn.com/2011/US/08/21/mesquite.murder.suicide/index.html

A YEAR OF NATURAL DISASTERS

\$1 billion has been spent on nine weather events in 2011.
—cnn.com/2011/US/08/20/weather.disasters/index.html?hpt=us_t1

IS IT AN IPAD WORLD?

CNN Money wants to know if there will ever be a tablet other than the iPad.
—money.cnn.com/2011/08/22/technology/ipad_forever/index.htm?hpt=te_bn2

FORT RILEY OPENS WARRIOR ZONE

A new recreation center designed to give soldiers more opportunities to relax opens today at Fort Riley.
—cjonline.com/news/2011-08-22/fort-riley-opening-warrior-zone

ACTRESS KATIE KEANE TO SPEAK AT EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Topeka native and actress Katie Keane will speak at Emporia State University on Sept. 6 as part of the 2011 Pflaum Memorial Lecture series.
—cjonline.com/news/2011-08-22/topeka-native-actress-speak-esu

“IN COLD BLOOD” HOUSE CATCHES FIRE

The farmhouse that was the center of Truman Capote’s book, “In Cold Blood” caught fire Sunday night.
—cjonline.com/news/2011-08-22/fire-put-out-cold-blood-house

ROLLER DERBY ROLLS INTO TOWN

They call her “Worst Case Senario.” Kate Boltz brings roller derby to Manhattan with the Flint Hills Roller Derby League.
—themercury.com/News/article.aspx?articleid=7d66021068bf4ede65af9d19ed2010e

KANSAS CITY’S LOCAL BEER TO DEBUT IN BOSTON

The Boulevard Brewing Co. is taking the Smokestack Series to Boston in September.
—kansascity.com/2011/08/22/3091343/boulevards-smokestack-to-rollout.html

CONSUMERS SHOULD WATCH FOR STOLEN MEAT

Officials from the Kansas Agriculture Department are telling consumers to be careful when shopping for beef and pork.
—kansascity.com/2011/08/22/3091619/kansas-warns-against-eating-stolen.html

RANCH FOR DISABLED KANSANS IS SAVED

A ranch in southeast Kansas was saved from auction yesterday. The ranch serves as a camp for people with cerebral palsy.
—kansascity.com/2011/08/22/3091684/late-surge-saves-ranch-for-disabled.html

STUNT PILOT HONORED

Bryan Jensen of Ponte Verda, Fla., will be honored through a scholarship created in his memory. The scholarship will be set up through the Mid-American Youth Aviation Association.
—kansascity.com/2011/08/22/3091563/scholarship-to-honor-pilot-killed.html

BICYCLE TRIP ACROSS KANSAS TO HONOR CANCER VICTIM.


Josh Wolfe will bike 450 miles before running in the Head for the Cure 5k race on Sunday.
—kansascity.com/2011/08/22/309282/biker-dedicates-trip-across-kansas.html

SHAWNEE HEIGHTS GRAD TRIES TO REMEMBER SUPER BOWL XVI

Tom Dinkel was a linebacker for the Cincinnati Bengals in 1981, when they went to the Super Bowl.
—cjonline.com/sports/2011-08-21/dinkels-super-bowl-memory-still-sketchy

- compiled by Caroline Sweeney

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WEEK OF WELCOME
AUGUST 20-27, 2011

K-STATE CULTURE DAY	TUESDAY, AUGUST 23
UPC presents “Olé Music & Dance of Spain” Flamenco Dancers • Bosco Student Plaza (rain location: Union Station) • noon-12:50 p.m. Office of International Programs: Around the World • Fairchild Hall sidewalk • 1-4 p.m.	
STUDENT SUCCESS DAY	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24
K-State Healthy Decisions (HD) Wildcat Wellness Wednesday • Bosco Student Plaza (rain location: Union Courtyard) • 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Career & Employment Services (CES) Backyard BBQ • Holtz Hall South Lawn • 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. UPC Lunchtime Lounge: Catch Amy • Bosco Student Plaza (rain location: Union Courtyard) • noon-1 p.m. Powercat Financial Counseling, Office of Student Financial Assistance, & Cashier’s Office Financial Refresher • Fairchild Hall Lawn • 1-4 p.m.	
INVOLUEMENT DAY	THURSDAY, AUGUST 25
CES Part Time Opportunities Fair • K-State Student Union Ballroom, second floor • 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Union Expo & Activities Carnival “Explore K-State... Find Yourself” • K-State Student Union • 6-8:30 p.m. • Check out more than 200 registered student organizations from 6-8 p.m. • “New Kids on the Block” Party for Proud from 6-8:30 p.m. K-State Alumni Association Wildcat Welcome Day • K-State Alumni Center • 7-9:30 p.m. UPC Outdoor Film: <i>Fast Five</i> • Bosco Student Plaza (rain location: Forum Hall) • 9 p.m. • Free	
FRIDAY FUN DAY	FRIDAY, AUGUST 26
UPC Film: <i>Thor</i> • K-State Student Union Forum Hall, ground floor • 8 p.m. Friday \$2 • 7 & 9:45 p.m. Saturday \$3 • 8 p.m. Sunday \$3 • \$1 off with K-State student ID all weekend K-State After Hours: Comedian Josh Blue • K-State Student Union Forum Hall, ground floor • 10:30 p.m. • Free • Free Denny’s pancakes after the show. (While supplies last.)	
SATURDAY, AUGUST 27	
Comedy Hypnotist Chuck Milligan • K-State Student Union Ballroom, 2nd floor • 9:30 p.m. • Free • Free pizza from 2MATO after the show. (While supplies last.)	



For a complete listing of Week of Welcome events, please visit www.k-state.edu.



GET IN THE GAME

Referee positions offer students opportunity for involvement, cash



Rugby players scrummage on the field of the Old Stadium as a referee looks on watchfully.

file photo

Mark Kern
assistant sports editor

Most of us will never be able to throw down a hammer dunk quite like Jamar Samuels can, or be able to ruin a team's momentum by blocking a spike like Alex Muff does, but that does not mean that we do not share the love of the game like they do. These two were truly blessed with ability that not everyone has. Fortunately, there is a way for us to keep active with the sports that we love. Intramurals are a great way to

stay involved with sports. They also provide an escape from the grind of classes and stress and allow us to return to our favorite pastimes. "Intramurals give you the chance to go back to your high school days when you did not have all of the worries you do now and where your only worry was making sure you won your games," said Jared Woody, senior in construction science and management. Another great thing about intramurals is that there is such a

wide variety of sports available, so there are many opportunities to find a new passion. Besides the sports we are more accustomed to such as football, basketball and volleyball, sports like water polo, racquetball and even Ultimate Frisbee are enjoyable and easy to play. If you also have knowledge of sports, then intramurals can be not only a fun activity, they can also be a great part-time job during the school year. Matt Pfeifer, sophomore in secondary education, said he de-

cided to be a referee both for the fun and for the money. "Well, I have always been a huge sports fan," he said. "Refereeing was a way for me to be involved with sports, while also making a little money on the side. The schedule is flexible and I have made a lot of friends doing it." Intramurals are great because of the wide variety of sports available that allows everyone to find something that they truly enjoy. Students also do not have to wait a long time for the games to

begin. Signups for team sports start on Thursday at the Peters Recreation Complex. Additionally, referee meetings start on Aug. 30. For more information, call the Rec at 785-532-6980 and ask for Armando Espinoza, assistant director of intramurals. School is off and running, and we are all going to be busy with various activities, but everyone should take advantage of intramurals to escape, take a break and have some fun.

Defensive step-up



A K-State defensive player fails to complete a tackle as his opponent makes off with the ball. Defensive coordinator Chris Cosh received criticism last season for the performance of the defense.

Monty Thompson
sports editor

Those of us who grew up watching the Wildcats through the '90s and early 2000s were blessed to witness the most successful 10 years of football in Kansas State history. Labeled by some as the "Decade of Dominance," K-State, under then-new head coach Bill Snyder, found itself slowly growing into a perennial powerhouse. Most fans remember the handful of quarterbacks and other skill position players that passed through the offense over those years. However, few of us have forgotten the defensive squads that shut down nearly every team they faced. Fast forward to last season. Last year the Wildcats found success offensively through heavy use of running back Daniel Thomas, after being plagued with injuries at the wide receiver position. The defense, however, found itself struggling

to stop anyone from running the ball and ended the season near the bottom of the national rankings. While the pass defense has remained consistently in the top half of the conference statistically, the exact opposite applies against the run. After allowing 2,749 yards on the ground last season, the Wildcats placed last in the conference and fourth to last out of all Football Bowl Subdivision schools in rushing yards allowed. What was the cause of last season's poor performance? The verdict is still out, but Wildcat fans will have an answer soon. At the end of the season, many fans were questioning either the talent of the players or the coaching those players were receiving. In the midst of the turmoil, no one took more criticism than defensive coordinator Chris Cosh. As Cosh enters his third year as K-State's defensive coordinator, improvements will need to be made in many areas along the

defense. Size on the defensive line, speed at linebacker, basic fundamentals and location assignments for all positions will be expected to improve. Last year opposing teams saw few defensive formation switches from the Wildcats' defense during games. Therefore, for coaches, the use of new defensive schemes and blitz packages should be implemented into future game plans. With an impressive incoming recruiting class headlined by Tennessee and Miami transfers Bryce and Arthur Brown, fans can expect exciting new talent on both sides of the ball. Add that new talent to the returning experience from many of last year's starters, and the potential is there for an improved defense. The pieces are in place for this season's defense to be an impressive unit. It is now up to Cosh and the rest of his staff to make sure the players get the coaching they need to be prepared for this difficult upcoming season.

Two-minute drill

Mark Kern
Assistant Sports Editor

Football: Pryor gets his shot — Former Ohio State quarterback Terrelle Pryor was taken in the third round of the NFL supplemental draft by the Oakland Raiders. By selecting Pryor, the Raiders will have to forfeit their third round pick this year. Pryor will now serve his five game suspension in the NFL for accepting illegal benefits. **Basketball:** Ellis schedules visits — Wichita Heights star Perry Ellis has now scheduled his visits to the three Kansas schools on his final list. Ellis will make his first appearance

on Sept. 9 as he goes to Lawrence to visit the University of Kansas. His second visit will be on Sept. 12 as he comes to Manhattan to visit K-State. On the following day, he will visit his home town college of Wichita State. **Baseball:** Rollins on the disabled list — The Phillies have lost their All-Star short stop to injury as he has a mild grade 2 strain. The Phillies activated Placido Polanco back off the DL to take Rollins spot. Jimmy Rollins is expected back early to mid-September. **AP Top 25 Poll** 1. Oklahoma (36) 2. Alabama (17)

- 3. Oregon (4)
- 4. LSU (1)
- 5. Boise St. (2)
- 6. Florida St.
- 7. Stanford
- 8. Texas A&M
- 9. Oklahoma St.
- 10. Nebraska
- 11. Wisconsin
- 12. South Carolina
- 13. Virginia Tech
- 14. TCU
- 15. Arkansas
- 16. Notre Dame
- 17. Michigan St.
- 18. Ohio St.
- 19. Georgia
- 20. Mississippi St.
- 21. Missouri
- 22. Florida
- 23. Auburn
- 24. West Virginia
- 25. USC

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kansas state collegian

Check out the GAMEDAY edition EVERY FRIDAY!

SEX | Failure to educate about STDs points to why cultural taboo exists

Continued from page 1

about some pretty personal things. I don't think there is anything taboo in here.

"Actually, probably the least likely thing that would get brought up in here is masturbation," Fajen said. "That is one thing that people still find horribly taboo. If you're ill or you've gotten an STD, that seems to be open for discussion."

Ultimately, how a person deals with an STD, Fajen said, seems to stem from how they deal with tragedy.

"Some people grieve for their grandparents for years and some people just go 'OK, that's over, and move on,'" he said. "The event has no value. It's your attitude that creates your reaction. You could have a half a dozen people get betrayed and infected similarly

and, a year later, you could have a half a dozen different reactions."

Social stigma

Nancy Muturi, K-State professor of public relations, is an expert in risk communication associated with HIV/AIDS. She has worked in Kenya, researching communication strategies to educate adults about HIV/AIDS health risks.

"My focus is on HIV/AIDS because it is really an epidemic that has no cure," Muturi said. "I am not sure there is anyone who doesn't know or heard about the disease and the negative impact it has on people's lives."

Muturi also said the failure to educate contributes to how people communicate to each other about STDs.

"People do not talk about it openly even when we know

they exist," Muturi said. "They do not even discuss them with the significant other because it would be too embarrassing to ask a partner if they have ever had an STD. It is considered rude. This makes it difficult to communicate about it and to prevent the spread of the diseases."

She said part of the taboo associated with STDs is the way they are being portrayed negatively in the media.

"They have a role to educate the public about them, but instead most of what we see or read is not very positive," Muturi said. "There is sometime little mention of the risks, and often we hear of these diseases mentioned when they are marketing contraceptives — they might say 'this contraceptive does not prevent you from contracting STDs or HIV/AIDS.'"

Kelly Welch, K-State pro-

fessor of family studies and human services, said in an email interview that K-State students are not properly educated on the topic either, adding that they are also finding false information portrayed through the media.

"College students rely on pop culture, such as Cosmopolitan magazine and Oprah, to teach them about sexuality," Welch said. "Sadly, pop culture can be terribly inaccurate."

Welch has written several books on human sexuality and teaches human development classes at K-State.

he said, he was not really worried about it but determined to get it treated.

"It was like 'OK, all right,'" Hendrix said. "It was kind of an 'OK, that sucks. What do I need to do to take care of it?' My mom flipped out, but I mean, she came to terms with it and was supportive and making sure that everything got taken care of how it needed to be taken care of."

Upon diagnosis, Hendrix said he used a cream to treat the disease initially, but later went in for surgery to have the warts removed. He said physically the pain was harsh, but he felt no psychological disturbance as a result of the disease.

"Pain's pain, it happens," he said. "I don't know. I feel kind of bad, because I'm probably a terrible example of how this would go through someone's mind, but before I went to the

doctor's the pain was miserable. It was excruciating. I was at work when it hit really bad ... I couldn't move and focus enough to drive so one of my friends had to come and pick me up and take me back home. It was a terrible experience."

Hendrix said he cannot pinpoint who gave him the strand of HPV, but feels sure he knows who it was. He also said he has not informed that person and does not plan to do so.

"I realized that he probably had a pretty good idea," he said. "And that's why he started kind of drifting apart and causing fights and at least that's what I kind of assumed, and because of the way we ended it, I didn't feel the need. Which is a terrible thing, it's a terrible way to deal with it, and really, truly, people shouldn't do it that way."

Economic stranglehold due to deficit, weak spending, politics

Beth Bohn
K-State Communications and Marketing

K-State economist Lloyd B. Thomas Jr. says the government is running out of options when it comes to stimulating the weak economy and holding off a second double-dip recession since the 2007-2009 financial crisis.

"The federal government normally has two tools to use in an effort to ameliorate a very weak economy: fiscal policy and monetary policy. Unfortunately, neither of these tools appear likely to resolve our situation," said Thomas, K-State professor of economics and the author of the book "The Financial Crisis and Federal Reserve Policy," recently published by Palgrave Macmillan.

Thomas said the economy has still not recovered from the severity of the 2007-2009 recession, and he added that the outlook for recovery is not promising right now because of low consumption spending, investment spending and government purchases — or aggregate spending, a main driver in economic activity.

"Consumer spending is weak right now because household wealth has been hammered by the decline in home prices — with one-third of households with mortgages now having negative equity in their homes; by the decline in the stock market and retire-

ment accounts; by the decline in consumer confidence; and by very high unemployment," Thomas said.

Investment spending is weak; firms are reluctant to expand operations because people aren't buying their goods and services. New construction, also considered investment spending, is extremely weak, largely because of the glut of repossessed homes on the market. And government purchases are weak as state and local governments are forced to retrench because of the decline in their revenues, Thomas said.

"Spending by the federal government is inhibited by political considerations stemming from the huge federal budget deficit, which is largely the result of the enormous financial crisis that began in 2007," he said.

According to Thomas, conventional fiscal policy would involve large tax cuts and expansion of government expenditures to boost aggregate spending.

However, fear that the United States could follow European countries into a sovereign debt crisis, coupled with political forces in Washington, have taken a needed additional fiscal stimulus off the table, he said.

When it comes to monetary policy, Thomas said the Federal Reserve has essentially exhausted its ammunition.

The Fed announced Aug. 9 that it would continue to keep interest rates as low as possible.

"The Fed has maintained its short-term interest rate near zero since December 2008, and has taken several measures to try to push the long-term interest rate as low as possible," Thomas said. "Today, the 10-year Treasury bond yield is near 2 percent — the lowest rate in 60 years. In short, the Fed is out of bullets."

Thomas said the fear that we may be in for a lengthy period of economic stagnation, coupled with the gridlock in government, is driving the volatility in the stock market.

"Investors are contemplating the possibility of a lengthy period of economic stagnation: slow or negative growth and very high unemployment," he said. "Because both monetary and fiscal policy are essentially immobilized today, the economic outlook is precarious and indeed frightening."

Thomas' research interests include monetary economics, macroeconomic policy and international monetary economics.

His work has appeared in leading journals, including The Economic Record, Business Economics, Southern Economic Journal, Journal of Economic Perspectives and more.

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Despite shaky market, student loan rates not expected to spike

Megan Molitor
k-state communications and marketing

When Standard and Poor's recently downgraded the U.S. credit rating from AAA to AA+, the financial markets immediately started to fluctuate and fears began to rise about the effect the downgrade would have on other sectors of the economy.

A financial expert at K-State says this uncertainty can be expected in today's unprecedented times. "It's been a long time since we've had this uncertainty," said John Graham, professor of finance at K-State. "Market participants seem to be able to deal with good or bad news, but they hate uncertainty. It leads to fear and to the emotional or the sometimes irrational investor decisions like we've seen the last few weeks with stocks going way up and way down on almost a daily basis."

In theory, credit ratings for a nation work the same way as for any other organization that issues debt, Graham said — by assessing an organization's ability to repay principle and interest in a timely manner. The drop in the U.S. rating has caused many investors to fear that interest rates across the U.S. could skyrocket, but Graham said this might be an overreaction.

"There's been a lot of hyperbole and overstatement about the debt downgrade, but it's my opinion that it has been grossly overblown," he said. "They're trying to send a message to public policymakers that they need to address the issue of public debt and continuing deficits. It's an effort to get their attention to address these issues in a credible manner."

Normally the investment world could expect interest rates to increase with a downgrade like this, Graham said.

But because so many interrelated parts are moving at the same time — like economic trouble in Europe — the U.S., as the world's largest economy, is still viewed as a place to find relative stability.

Immediately after the debt downgrade was announced, investors saw worsening conditions in Europe, Graham said, and became nervous about the economy and the financial markets.

This caused individuals to continue seeing the U.S. Treasury as a safe haven, and interest rates went down significantly.

"It sounds counterintuitive, but that's the way the market reacted to it," he said.

However, Graham acknowledged that the heavy Federal Reserve and government involvement in the economy and Federal Treas-

"If investors get nervous, rates go up, and if they get more confident about the treasury debt, rates will go down. It's purely supply and demand."

John Graham
professor of finance

ury security markets makes these uncharted waters, and it can be difficult to determine what influence the downgrade will have on other rates, like for those on student and auto loans.

But since market participants typically determine rates, Graham said these types of interest rates might not be affected.

"If investors get nervous, rates go up, and if they get more confident about the treasury debt, rates will go down," he said. "It's purely supply and demand."

Graham said he believes student, auto and other types of loan interest rates might be relatively safe for the time being, due to the Federal Reserve's recent announcement that it planned to keep short-term rates low for at least two more years.

If that happens, he said, the typical expectation would be that other types of rates would not rise rapidly either.

"They might tick up, but they won't spike up," he said.

The bigger concern for those looking to apply for a student loan in the future is whether the money will actually be available.

Graham said the primary way that student loan rates go up, other than government intervention, is if demand exceeds the supply of money for these loans.

If lenders back off of making those loans because they lack capital or there is too much perceived risk, Graham said it is possible rates could increase.

However, in the short term, the market uncertainty and weak economy should keep increases minimal, he said. The danger is if inflation continues to accelerate and federal budget problems continue for an extended period.

"Part of the money for student loans comes from financial markets and part from federal government financing," Graham said. "If budget problems lead to less money, it could also lead to higher rates because those who can get money are willing to pay more. It also might lead to less availability of money."

Rates might not go up, he said, but fewer loan-seekers might be able to get their hands on the money that is available.

"I don't see anything in the short run, but it might be more of what comes up from the great deficit debate," he said.

Student body president engaged in community, university affairs

Tyler Sharp
k-state communications and marketing

Nate Spriggs has always maintained a busy array of school and community-related activities.

A one-time school board candidate in high school, where he compiled an impressive academic and extracurricular resume, Spriggs never hesitated to become involved. Similar results followed at K-State, culminating in his election as student body president in March.

Few breaks have followed for Spriggs, junior in agricultural economics, of Riverton, Kan. Summer has been no exception, including a part-time internship with the city of Manhattan and frequent preparation for the remainder of his presidential term at K-State.

Spriggs would not have it any other way.

"It's been a good summer, different every single day," he said. "I like whenever life is a little unique every single day."

Following an almost decade-long tradition, Spriggs is completing an internship with the Manhattan city manager's office. The internship is offered to the new student body president and vice president. But Spriggs didn't have to split the position this year because Kate Bormann, student body vice president and a senior in agricultural communications and journalism from Louisburg, is serving an internship with Fleishman-Hillard, an international public relations agency based in St. Louis.

Many student issues play a role in the different projects Spriggs is focusing on during his internship. He is helping with a review of Aggieville safety procedures, specifically regarding Fake Patty's Day. The day is fashioned after St. Patrick's Day and draws countless people to Aggieville and the surrounding areas for the

party-like atmosphere. Many stakeholders in Manhattan have pushed for the event's removal, but Spriggs believes the event could not be removed entirely. He has been working with separate entities in developing a recommendation to improve the safety and efficiency of the event.

He also assisted with the recent furniture amnesty day. Sponsored by HandsOn Kansas State and other organizations, the day was an opportunity for community members to recycle old or unwanted furniture. Spriggs credits the event's level of organization to Justin Scott, junior in political science, Lenexa, a member of his presidential cabinet.

Economic development has played a prominent role in Spriggs' internship. He has worked with a city sales tax program that provides incentives for businesses to start or relocate to Manhattan and that aids existing businesses in the city. Reports are prepared for city commissioners to see the program's successes. Similarly, Spriggs has worked with a program that offers small grants for neighborhood improvements.

Spriggs also has been an advocate for K-State students. The city's recently disbanded rental inspection program was supported by organizations such as the K-State Student Governing Association. Spriggs worked with Jim Sherow, mayor of Manhattan and a professor of history at K-State, on alternatives to the program but none were approved. Spriggs and Sherow meet biweekly to discuss city and university issues.

Spriggs said he has enjoyed the work.

"A lot of times you read in the newspaper about what the City Commission or state Legislature is doing," he said. "It's neat to see the other side of that -- the administrative side."

But Spriggs also is active in his main job as K-State stu-

dent body president, where he is planning for the start of the fall semester and preparing for the remainder of his term. A platform issue of his campaign — a VIP program for student entertainment options — is prepared to move forward. The program will feature special offers and enhanced seating options for McCain Auditorium and Union Program Council entertainment events.

Increased information about campus services will be more readily available as well thanks to collaboration facilitated by student government. Welcome back information is being made available to all students through the K-State residence halls and the K-State Student Union's upcoming Expo and Activities Carnival. Spriggs also helped welcome many new K-State students to campus this summer through a variety of activities at orientation and enrollment and at Wildcat Warm-Up.

An ongoing project for Spriggs and student government has been tuition planning. Special fees associated with tuition will likely be reviewed for how they are benefiting students, Spriggs said.

Spriggs even managed to spend some time away from Manhattan this summer. He served as a counselor for the Youth Civic Leadership Institute at the University of Kansas and took a family vacation to Table Rock Lake in Missouri. He also volunteered for a week with his family in tornado-ravaged Joplin, Mo., which is less than 10 miles from the Spriggs' home.

At his fraternity's recent national convention, Spriggs was recognized for his efforts. He received the Order of the Sphinx, an honor given to an outstanding member of a chapter by Delta Sigma Phi, a national social fraternity.

Spriggs is a 2009 graduate of Riverton High School and is the son of Larry and Carol Spriggs.

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September offers music, art workshops at McCain Auditorium

Beth Bohn
K-State Communications and Marketing

Fun with 3-D, performances by guest musicians and a chance to support the K-State art museum are just some of the ways to fall into the arts this September at Kansas State University. K-State is offering a variety of cultural events, including art exhibitions, music and more during the month, which also features the first performance in the 2011-12 McCain Performance Series.

The following events, all free unless otherwise indicated, are sponsored by K-State's McCain Performance Series, department of music and Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art. They include:

- * The exhibition "Makers Framed: Photographic Portraits by George Kren" runs through Oct. 16 at the Beach Museum of Art and features portraits of Kansas artists and people with connections to the arts taken by Kren, a former K-State professor

of history.

- * "Lines Traveling Through Space: Ghosts and Shadows, Minimal Sculpture by Tal Streeter" runs through Oct. 30 at the Beach Museum and features the work of Manhattan native Streeter.
- * ARTSmart classes will be offered Thursday, Sept. 1, and Friday, Sept. 2, at the Beach Museum. The topic is Kansas and agriculture. Classes Sept. 1 will be 10:30-11:30 a.m. for children ages 4-5, and 4:15-5:15 p.m. for children ages 6 and up. The class Sept. 2 will be 10:30-11:30 a.m. and is for all ages. The cost is \$3 per child, \$2 for toddlers and \$1.50 for Friends of the Beach Museum of Art members. Reservations are required by calling 785-532-7718 or email to klwalk@k-state.edu. Children must be accompanied by an adult. If you need to cancel your reservation let the Beach know because there is a waiting list.
- * It's Homeschool Tuesday at the Beach Museum from 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 6. This gallery discussion is appropriate

for school-age children, with a special story time activity for younger siblings when appropriate. This month's topic is Kansas and agriculture. The cost is \$2 per child. Space is limited and reservations are required by calling 785-532-7718.

- * The K-State Orchestra will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 13, in McCain Auditorium. The orchestra is conducted by David Littrell, university distinguished professor of music.
- * "Art and Psychology: The Work of Roy Langford (1903-1990)" opens Wednesday, Sept. 14, at the Beach Museum of Art. Langford taught psychology at K-State for more than 40 years. The exhibition's 20 paintings and drawings trace his approach to painting that embraced his training as a scientist and an artist. It ends Dec. 19.
- * The Serafini Brillanti, an ensemble performing works for soprano, trumpet and keyboard, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14, in All Faiths Chapel. The performance

is part of the department of music's Guest Artist Series.

- * David Pickering, assistant professor of music, will give a piano and organ performance at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, at All Faiths Chapel.
- * Want to help the Beach Museum of Art buy art from Kansas artists? Then attend the Friends of the Beach Museum of Art Fundraising Gala from 6-10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16, at the K-State Alumni Center. Join your friends for an evening with dinner, drinks, dancing and the music of Kansas City jazz artist David Basse. Tickets are \$125 per person and can be purchased by calling 785-532-7718.
- * Explore the intersection of math and art through the angular art of Tal Streeter and Alan Shields in "An Angle on Art" from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 17, at the Beach Museum. Refreshments will be served. The event is part of K-State's Family Day activities.
- * Enjoy performances by students from the music department's voice, keyboard, wind,

string, brass and/or percussion studies at the General Student Recital, 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 22, in All Faiths Chapel.

- * It's Museum Day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Beach Museum of Art. The day, in cooperation with the Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day, encourages people to visit a museum.
- * Mezzo soprano Patricia Stiles, associate professor of voice at Indiana University, will perform at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 28, at All Faiths Chapel. The performance is part of the department of music's Guest Artist Series.
- * Amy Young, an artist from New York City, will discuss her art, street art and the use of social media to engage the recipients of her art in an Arts Above the Arch presentation for the Beach Museum of Art at 5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 29. The presentation is in cooperation with K-State's department of history and the College of Education.
- * Kids are invited to create collages with bling at the Beach

Museum's "All the Glitters" workshop from 2-3:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30. Elementary schools in Manhattan release early for the day, so kids can get creative with the two boxes of shiny treasures the museum has received. The cost is \$5 per child and reservations are required by calling 785-532-7718.

- * Mark Nizer 3-D will be the first presentation in K-State's McCain Performance Series at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30. The family-friendly show features outrageous juggling, comedy and 3-D technology. Tickets cost \$11 to \$35, with a variety of discounts available for K-State students, faculty and staff; military members; and youth 18 and under. Drop by the McCain Auditorium box office to get tickets or call 785-532-6428.

For more information on all Beach Museum events, call 785-532-7718; for music department events, call 785-532-5740 or check out the department's calendar in front of 109 McCain; and to get tickets to McCain events call 785-532-6428.

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Employment/ Careers

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310

Help Wanted

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Cory Hendrickson, senior in political science, looks through posters at the K-State Student Union on Monday. The poster sale is a popular event at the Union during the first week of classes. Posters are available for viewing during Union business hours.

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Genetics ‘fuel’ energy research

Harnessing the power of plants: university team studies sorghum genetics to fuel green energy research

Greg Tammen
K-State Communications and Marketing

Those choices at the pump may look a little greener in the future as a Kansas State University research team is conducting a study that could eventually add “plant” to the list of fuel options.

In early August, four faculty members from K-State’s College of Agriculture and College of Engineering received an \$800,000 grant from the U.S. departments of Agriculture and Energy under the Plant Feedstocks Genomics for Bioenergy research program. The grant funds a three-year study that will provide the genetic groundwork necessary for potentially turning sorghum into biofuel by increasing the plant’s biomass yield.

“Bioenergy is a very hot topic and there’s a lot of talk about its possibilities,” said Jianming Yu, associate professor of agronomy and leader of the study. “But a lot of work still needs to be done since it’s still a new field. And unless genetics is improved, industries probably won’t want to get involved because there are still too many unknowns.”

Yu is conducting the sorghum bioenergy study with K-State’s Tesfaye Tesso, assistant professor of agronomy; Scott Staggenborg, professor of agronomy; and Donghai Wang, professor of biological and agricultural engineering, along with researchers from the University of Minnesota and the USDA’s Agricultural Research Service plant genetic resources conservation unit. K-State is one of nine universities chosen nationally to participate in genomics studies related to bioenergy. Potential benefits from these university studies range from decreasing oil imports to optimizing crops that can tolerate drought, poor soil and other unfavorable conditions.

Over the next three years the K-State team will build a genetic database on biomass sorghum, a type of sorghum that contains little grain and

is mostly leaves and stalk. Biomass sorghum provides a large amount of high-quality feedstock, which can produce eco-friendly fuels. Kansas is the top producer of sorghum in the U.S., accounting for nearly half of the country’s annual yield. Similarly, the U.S. is the world’s largest grain sorghum exporter and ranks second in production, according to Staggenborg.

But despite the country’s large production of sorghum, little data about biomass sorghum’s genetics and how to improve the crop exists, outside of some USDA studies on the sorghum collection conducted

“In the bigger picture, this study addresses some of those emerging issues with energy and climate change.”

Tesfaye Tesso
assistant professor of agronomy

many years ago. While many grain crops have had their genetics and production refined and documented for decades, the K-State sorghum team essentially has to start from scratch.

“Our study will sort of be a prototype with new lessons and insights into how we combine this proven method of plant breeding -- changing a plant’s genetics to make more starch, more yield, or in this case, more biomass -- with this new genomic technology to optimize the improvement process,” Tesso said. “In the bigger picture, this study addresses some of those emerging issues with energy and climate change.”

To build the database, the team is looking at genetic diversity in sorghum’s germplasm -- essentially the plant’s gene bank. Members will start with 1,000 sorghum lines selected from the center of the germplasm pool. A line is the unique genetic material in sorghum. Those samples will then be genotyped, a process where the team looks at each sample’s unique molecular diversity and compares it to the molecular diversity found in the sampled collection as a whole.

From those 1,000 samples, a subset of 300 samples will be chosen to represent the maximum amount of diversity, and will be studied more in depth for biomass yield and biomass composition. Once the biomass yield is found for those 300 samples, Yu and the others can then predict the biomass yield of the remaining 700 untested samples from that original 1,000 sample set.

Additionally, some field samples will chemically analyzed. Data from this analysis will be used with near-infrared spectroscopy technology to build predictive models. The researchers can use these models to accurately predict the biomass composition in the other samples rather than using the costly chemical analysis process. Wang, whose expertise is in biological and agricultural engineering, will oversee this phase.

“This process is part of what we call 21st-century predictive biology,” Yu said. “We’ll have a total of 3,600 field samples collected for this two-year, dual replication study from three locations in Kansas. The third and final year will be dedicated to validation. Basically we’ll have a ton of samples to work with, and this predictive process will help us manage the data and workload.”

Yu said the group is prepped for this new genetic challenge through their previous research projects, which have been supported by K-State’s Targeted Excellence Program, Kansas Grain Sorghum Commission, National Sorghum Checkoff Program and the Great Plains Sorghum Improvement and Utilization Center.

“There’s that adage that says you can’t just build a better car by making a bigger engine. You also need a solid frame to support it,” Yu said. “For this biomass sorghum car, we don’t have the upgrades yet that are necessary to really think about the engine, so we need to build and improve that framework. It’s pretty exciting that a single project like this can bring together such an interdisciplinary team for a singular focus.”



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.25 wings

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\$3 UV Bombs
Chef choice on food special

Wednesday

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\$1 Busch lt./ Old Mil cans
\$1⁵⁰ taco burgers
.50 tacos

Thursday

\$2 wells
\$2⁵⁰ pounders
\$3 long islands
\$3 bottles
.50 sliders

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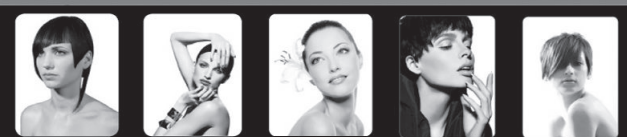
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